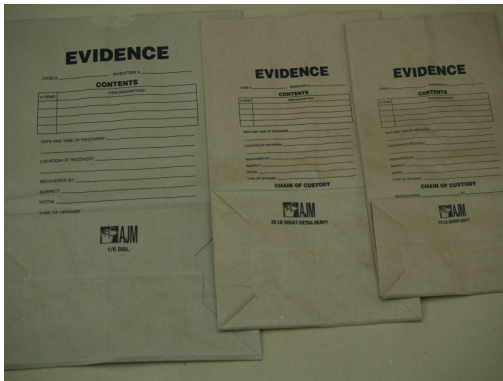
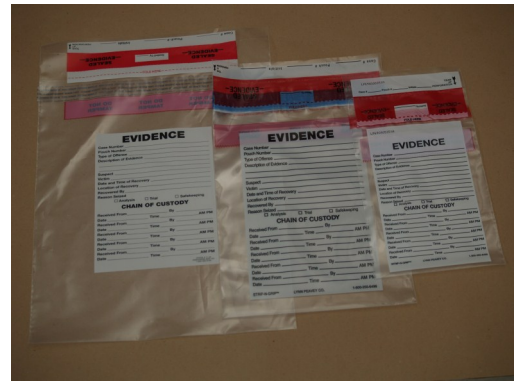


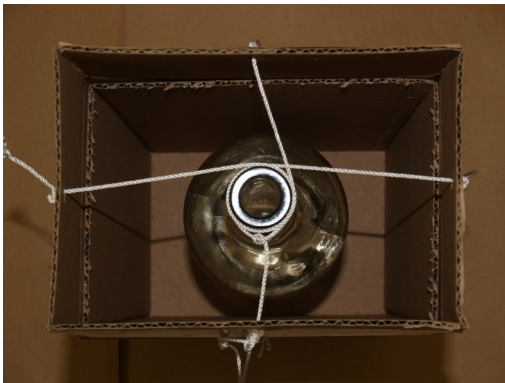
# LATENT PRINTS



Paper evidence bags



Plastic evidence bags



Item secured with a string



Properly seal and date with initials across evidence tape.

## Don'ts

- Don't cover exhibits to be examined for latent prints with evidence tape.
- Don't wrap nonporous items in cotton or cloth as they damage or destroy the latent prints.
- Fingerprint cards and lifts can be packaged in paper or plastic.
- Items not processed should be packaged in paper or cardboard only, no plastic.
- Items that have been superglue fumed can be packaged in either paper or plastic.
- Items related to drug cases (residue) should be packaged in plastic.
- All items should be packaged separately- one item per bag if possible.
- Items should be secured within the package to prevent loss of prints.

(Continued on next page)

## Materials and Methods

Non-Porous/Hard Surface Items (i.e, metal, glass, plastic, etc.)

Package in paper bags or cardboard boxes to avoid movement (not plastic bags).

Porous/ Absorbent Items (i.e, paper, cardboard, currency, checks, etc.)

Package in manila envelopes or paper bags.

Soft/Pliable Items (i.e, vinyl, leather, rubber, wax, caulk, putty, etc.)

Package secured to a fixed surface to avoid movement, crinkling, or folding (no plastic bags).

Visible Print Items (i.e, blood, dust, adhesive coated surfaces, etc.)

Package secured to a fixed surface to avoid movement, crinkling, folding or adhesion to packaging (no plastic bags).

Special Surfaces/Conditions

Contact the Latent Fingerprint section of SDFL for instructions on submission and preservation.

**Note:** Any print in blood needs to be air dried before packaging and submission. In addition, visible prints should be documented and photographed prior to submission.

- Use gloves to pick up items of evidence being careful not to wipe possible latent prints off the surface.
- Fasten down large articles containing latent prints with string, wire, or tie straps to prevent shifting and contact with other items. Label containers with the words "latent print evidence".
- Put developed latent lifts in envelopes, mark, and seal.
- Place papers and documents containing latent prints in manila envelopes or cardboard boxes and seal.
- Take complete and legible, inked print standards of all the ridges on the fingers and palms of subject.
- Include inked fingerprint and palmprint standards of all individuals who may have handled the items before or after the crime.
- Treat all inked print standards as evidence, seal, and package.
- List all descriptive information of individuals being named for latent print comparison. (i.e, DOB, SS#, First, Middle, Last name)
- Mark the packaging with the biohazard symbol if it contains bloodstained evidence.
- Treat CD/DVDs with latent print images as evidence and seal package correctly.
- Superglue fume nonporous evidence before submittal to the lab if possible.

